

U.S./Canada Resource Sharing Understanding



Under the U.S./Canada Resource Sharing Understanding (Understanding), management of Georges Bank (GB) cod, GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder is subject to the terms of the Understanding within two specified areas on GB referred to as the U.S./Canada Management Areas (composed of the Western U.S./Canada Area and the Eastern U.S./Canada Area). Unless otherwise noted, the regulations described below apply to fishing vessels issued valid Federal fishing permits or any vessel fishing in Federal waters. (See 50 CFR § 648.4 for Federal fishing permit requirements.) This information sheet is only a summary of applicable fishing regulations and is not a substitute for the actual regulations which can be found at 50 CFR Part 648.

U.S./Canada Management Area:

The Eastern U.S./Canada Area is composed of statistical areas 561 and 562, and encompasses the U.S. portion of the U.S./Canada shared stock of GB cod and GB haddock, and a portion of the shared stock of GB yellowtail flounder. The Eastern U.S./Canada Area has been modified slightly to encompass all of Closed Area II (CA II). The Western U.S./Canada Area is composed of statistical areas 522 and 525.

The Eastern U.S./Canada Area

Point	Latitude	Longitude
USCA12	42°20'	67°40'
USCA11	41°10'	67°40'
USCA10	41°10'	67°20'
USCA9	41°00'	67°20'
USCA8	41°00'	67°00'
USCA7	40°50'	67°00'
USCA6	40°50'	66°50'
USCA5	40°40'	66°50'
USCA4	40°40'	66°40'
USCA15	40°30'	66°40'
USCA14	40°30'	65°44.3'
USCA13	42°20'	67°18.4'
USCA12	42°20'	67°40'

The Western U.S./Canada Area

Point	Latitude	Longitude
USCA1	42°20'	68°50'
USCA2	39°50'	68°50'
USCA3	39°50'	66°40'
USCA4	40°40'	66°40'
USCA5	40°40'	66°50'

USCA6	40°50'	66°50'
USCA7	40°50'	67°00'
USCA8	41°00'	67°00'
USCA9	41°00'	67°20'
USCA10	41°10'	67°20'
USCA11	41°10'	67°40'
USCA12	42°20'	67°40'
USCA 1	42°20'	68°50'

The U.S./Canada Management Area for GB yellowtail flounder is composed of both the Eastern and Western U.S./Canada Areas. Other existing fisheries prosecuted in the U.S./Canada Management Areas are unaffected by the Understanding measures, except that all landings of GB cod, GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder caught in the U.S./Canada Management Areas would be counted against the total allowable catches (TAC)s under the Understanding, regardless of gear type used.

Annual Harvest Levels:

The U.S. TACs in fishing year 2004 will be as follows: 300 mt for GB cod; 5,100 mt for GB haddock; and 6,000 mt for GB yellowtail flounder. Once any one of these TACs is reached, the Eastern U.S./Canada Area will be closed to all fishing by groundfish days-at-sea (DAS) vessels, with the exception of fishing under an approved Special Access Program (SAP), provided that the TAC for yellowtail flounder has not been harvested. When the GB yellowtail flounder TAC is reached all vessels in the Western or Eastern U.S./Canada Area are prohibited from possessing or retaining yellowtail flounder. Any overages of a TAC in a given year will result in an accordingly reduced TAC for that stock in the next fishing year.

Conditions and Restrictions:

1. All NE multispecies DAS vessels fishing on a groundfish DAS in the U.S./Canada Management Areas are required to utilize a fully functional VMS. Vessels are required to declare, through their VMS, prior to departure on a trip, the portion of the U.S./Canada Management Area they intend to fish in. For vessels fishing in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, DAS will not be counted until the vessel crosses the boundary line into that area. Similarly, DAS will not be counted until the vessel crosses the boundary line when leaving the area.
2. For the purpose of observer deployment, a vessel fishing in the U.S./Canada Management Area must provide notice to NOAA Fisheries at least 5 working days prior to the beginning of any trip which it declares into the U.S./Canada Management Area by calling the Observer Program Contractor at (508)990-9057.
3. Once declared into a specific area (see below), a vessel may not fish outside of that area for the remainder of that fishing trip.
4. Vessels making a trip in these areas are required to report their catches of GB cod, GB haddock and GB yellowtail flounder (including discards) through their VMS on a daily basis (for the Western U.S./Canada Area, vessels are required only to information pertaining to yellowtail flounder).
5. All groundfish trawl vessels fishing in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area are also required to fish with, and have on board only, either a flatfish net or a haddock separator trawl (or both).

Area Declaration:

All NE multispecies DAS vessels intending to fish within the U.S./Canada Management Area are required to declare their intent to fish in one of the four areas of the U.S./Canada Management Area identified below through VMS prior to departure on a trip. Once declared into one of these four areas, a vessel may not exit or re-enter the declared area for the remainder of that fishing trip. Vessels that do not possess a limited access NE multispecies DAS permit are not required to declare their intent to fish within the U.S./Canada Management Area. See below for more information.

Only Category A DAS may be used in all portions of the U.S./Canada Management Area, except within the CA II Yellowtail Flounder SAP as described below, where either Category A or B DAS (Regular or Reserve) may be used. The four areas within the U.S./Canada Management Area are as follows:

- | <u>Area</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|-------------|---|
| 1 | <u>CA II Yellowtail Flounder SAP</u> : Category A, B Regular, or B Reserve DAS may be used. |
| 2 | <u>Eastern U.S./Canada Area Outside of CAII</u> : Only Category A DAS may be used. |
| 3 | <u>Both the Eastern U.S./Canada and the CAII Yellowtail Flounder SAP</u> : Only Category A DAS may be used. |
| 4 | <u>Western U.S./Canada Area Only</u> : Only Category A DAS may be used. |

Trip Limits:

The U.S. TACs for fishing year 2004 will be as follows: 300 metric tons (mt) for GB cod; 5,100 mt for GB haddock; and 6,000 mt for GB yellowtail flounder. When the Regional Administrator projects that certain percentages of the TAC will be reached, additional trip limits, closures, or other measures will be implemented as described below. Any overages of these TACs will be subtracted from the respective TAC in the following fishing year. When 30% and 60% of the TACs for each stock has been harvested, the Regional Administrator may modify management measures to slow the harvest of any stock that is approaching its TAC.

Eastern U.S./Canada Area Cod: NE multispecies vessels fishing in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area may not land more than 500 lb of cod per DAS, or any part of a DAS, up to 5,000 lb per trip, not to exceed 5 percent of the total catch on board, whichever is less, unless otherwise restricted.

Western U.S./Canada Area Cod: NE multispecies vessels fishing in the Western U.S./Canada Area are subject to 1,000 lb of cod per DAS fished, or any part of a DAS, up to 10,000 lb per trip (this is the same GB cod landing restriction applicable to all groundfish vessels that have not declared into the Eastern U.S./Canada Area).

Haddock: NE multispecies vessels fishing in the U.S./Canada Management Areas are subject to the haddock trip limit applicable to all other groundfish vessels. Unless otherwise modified through rulemaking consistent with the Administrative Procedures Act, the haddock trip limit is as follows:

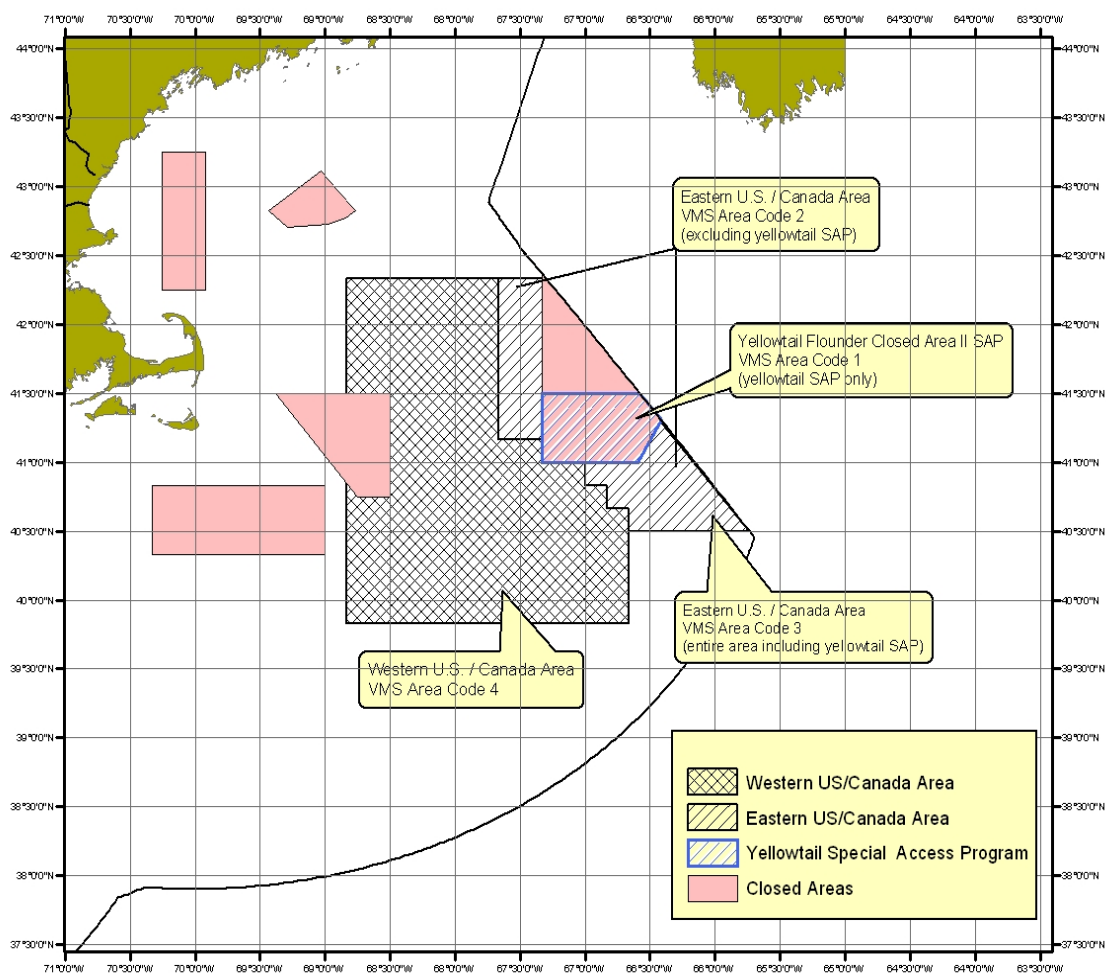
- From May 1 through September 30: A vessel may land up to 3,000 lb of haddock per DAS fished, or any part of a DAS, up to 30,000 lb per trip.
- From October 1 through April 30: A vessel may land up to 5,000 lb of haddock per DAS fished, or any part of a DAS, up to 50,000 lb per trip.

Yellowtail Flounder: The initial yellowtail flounder landing limit is specific to the CA II Yellowtail Flounder SAP discussed below (30,000 lb per trip).

When 70 percent of either yellowtail flounder or haddock is projected to be caught, and catch rates indicate that the TAC for that stock will be caught by the end of the fishing year, the following trip limits will go into place: Haddock: 1,500 lb/day; 15,000 lb/trip (Eastern area only); yellowtail flounder: 1,500 lb/day; 15,000 lb/trip (both Eastern and Western areas).

(click image for larger view)

**Eastern and Western U.S./Canada Areas,
Including Fishing Areas Within the U.S./Canada Management Area
for VMS Declaration Purposes Only**



This is a simplified summary of the measures in effect under the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. You should also get a copy of the official rules as published in the [Federal Register](#).